

# ***BLM News***

ELY FIELD OFFICE NO. 07-027

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## **BLM to Finalize Lost Ox OHV Trail System Management Plan**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is scheduled to finalize the draft Lost Ox Management and Monitoring Plan the week of April 16, reflecting 12 months of coordinated effort by the public, Nevada Department of Wildlife and BLM Ely District.

The Lost Ox Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trail System, to be located in the South Egan Range about 12 miles south of Ely, Nev., is a managed and sustainable trail system designed to provide OHV enthusiasts with a quality recreational experience and protect public land resources. The trail system will focus recreational OHV use on designated roads and trails, and help eliminate the proliferation of unauthorized roads and trails.

The trail system would be constructed in up to three phases, depending on use and impacts to wildlife habitat. Phase 1 would manage for existing recreational use. Phases 2 and 3 would accommodate and distribute additional use. The trail system would be comprised of about 186 miles of trails and roads on approximately 80,000 acres of the public lands, if all three phases were built.

The BLM would monitor the trail system for unauthorized routes, noxious weeds and invasive species, and wildlife. The BLM would implement adaptive management strategies, should monitoring reveal that impacts are occurring at unacceptable levels. Adaptive management strategies would include using barriers and signs, limiting use, closing or re-routing trails, and seasonal closures. Monitoring would begin prior to starting Phase 1 construction, and continue between phases.

The trail system adheres to the White Pine County Trails Plan, adopted in March 2004. The White Pine Chamber of Commerce, White Pine County Economic Diversification Council, City of Ely, White Pine County, Nevada Division of State Parks, Nevada Division of Forestry, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Ely Ranger District and Great Basin National Park helped develop the White Pine County Trails Plan, which recognizes the need for regional trails, and OHV trails systems.

To learn more about the Lost Ox OHV Trail System, contact Jack Tribble, BLM Ely District deputy assistant field manager for non-Renewable Resources, at (775) 289-1800.